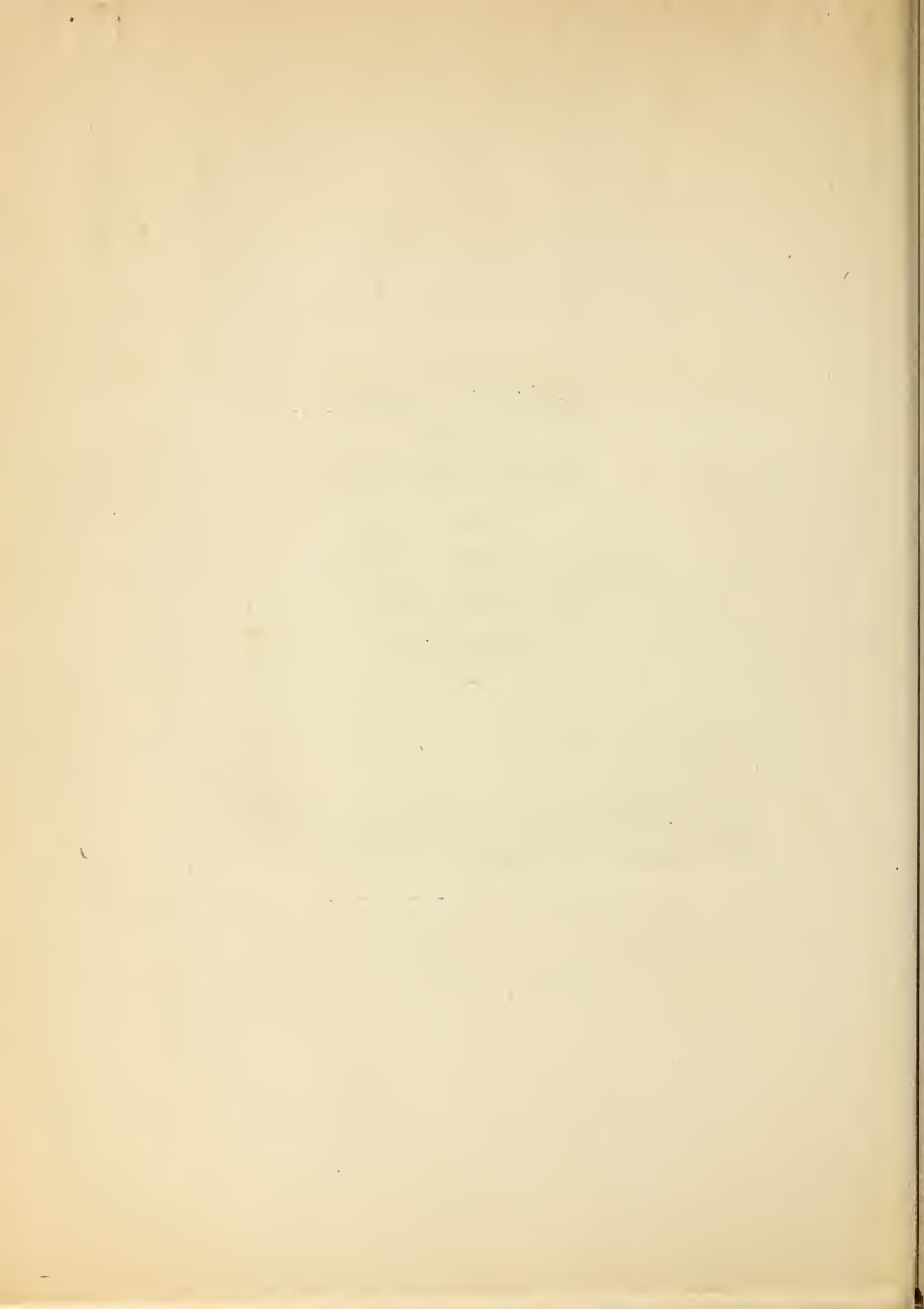


FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
of the
JUVENILE COMMISSION
OF
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
JULY 31, 1931

"Let us leave nothing undone that a people
might do to see that the children of today do
not populate the prisons of tomorrow."



MEMBERS
OF
JUVENILE COMMISSION

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. J. Norman Wills, Chairman | Mr. C. W. Phillips |
| Mrs. W. E. Blair, Secretary | Mr. R. W. Glenn |
| Mrs. M. Robins | Mr. G. P. Stone |
| Mr. J. D. Wilkins | |

PERSONNEL OF STAFF

.

THE COURT

WM. M. YORK, JUDGE

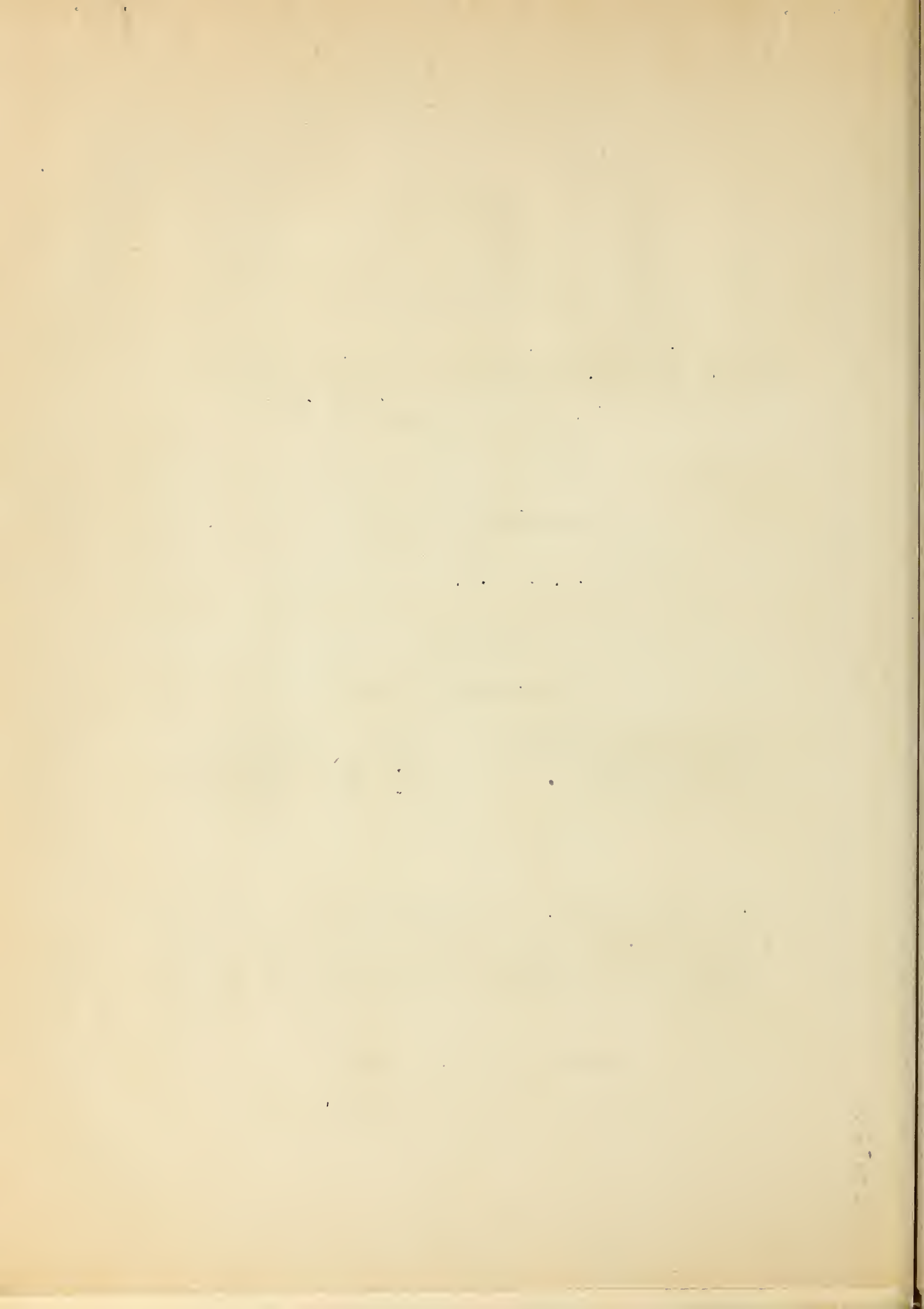
| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. Chas. H. Miller | Boys' Commissioner |
| Miss Corinne Cannady | Girls' Commissioner |
| Herbert Parks | Col. Boys' Commissioner |
| Bessie Reddick | Col. Girls' Commissioner |

The work of the Juvenile Commission of Greensboro, N. C. is divided into three distinct parts, namely: Juvenile Court, School Attendance, and Preventive Work. Though all the work is done by the same staff of workers the activities of each division will be treated separately in this report.

Report for Fiscal Year

August 1, 1930 - July 31, 1931

62-504-9



JUVENILE COURT

The Juvenile Court has handled 537 cases during the fiscal year ending July 31, 1931. A comparison of the figures for the past year with those of the three previous years shows a slight increase over the former reports. There are fewer cases among the white and more among the colored. The cases were divided between the races and sexes as follows:

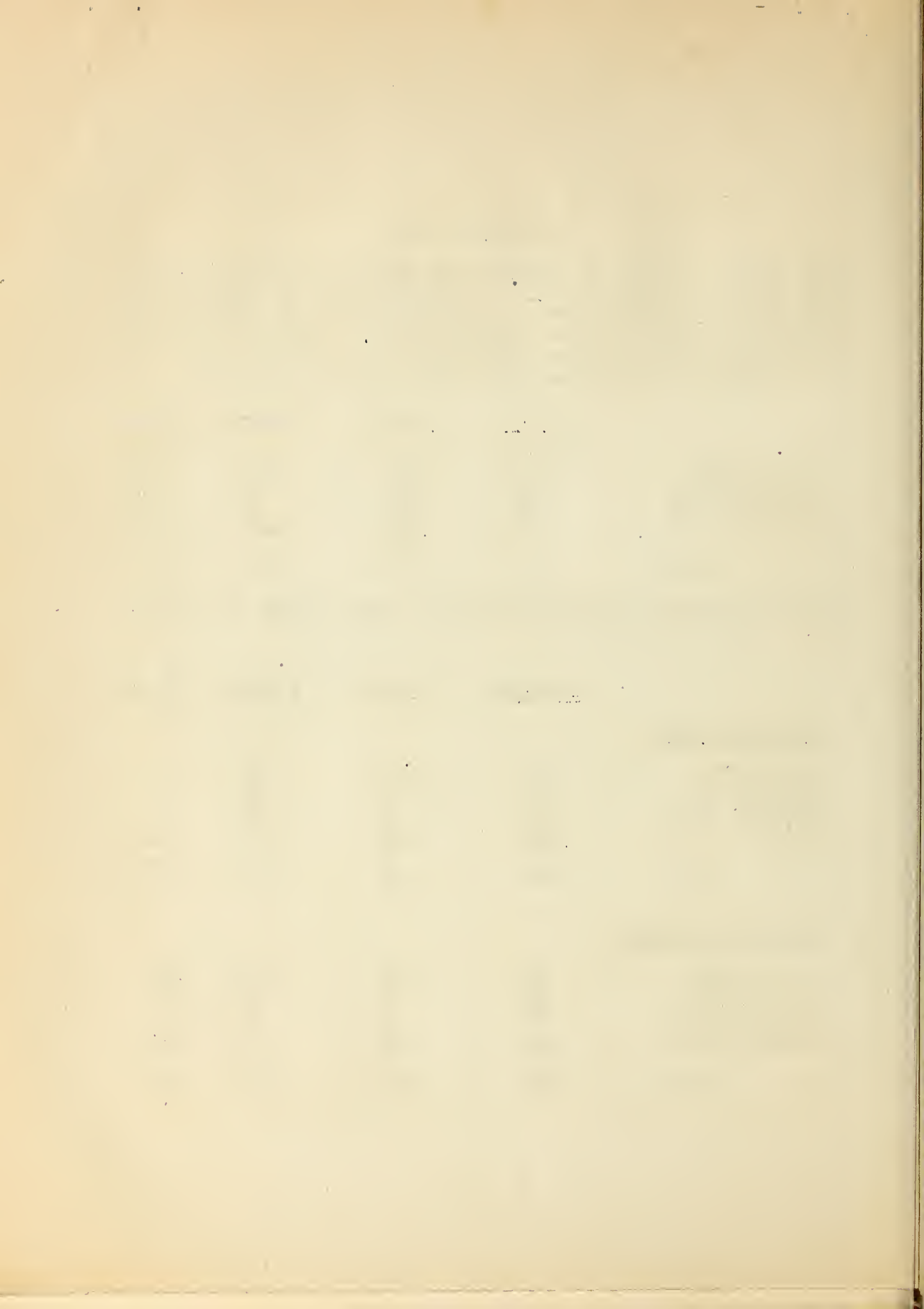
| | <u>1927-28</u> | <u>1928-29</u> | <u>1929-30</u> | <u>1930-31</u> |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| White Boys | 155 | 247 | 273 | 270 |
| White Girls | 45 | 101 | 103 | 88 |
| Colored Boys | 183 | 134 | 90 | 109 |
| Colored Girls | <u>43</u> | <u>65</u> | <u>66</u> | <u>70</u> |
| Total | 426 | 547 | 532 | 537 |

For the purpose of scientific study these cases are divided into official and unofficial cases as follows:

| | <u>1927-28</u> | <u>1928-29</u> | <u>1929-30</u> | <u>1930-31</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <u>Official Cases</u> | | | | |
| White Boys | 66 | 103 | 59 | 89 |
| White Girls | 13 | 38 | 36 | 22 |
| Colored Boys | 111 | 94 | 53 | 50 |
| Colored Girls | <u>14</u> | <u>22</u> | <u>22</u> | <u>14</u> |
| Total | 204 | 257 | 170 | 175 |

Unofficial Cases

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| White Boys | 89 | 144 | 214 | 181 |
| White Girls | 32 | 63 | 67 | 66 |
| Colored Boys | 72 | 40 | 37 | 59 |
| Colored Girls | <u>29</u> | <u>43</u> | <u>44</u> | <u>56</u> |
| Total | 222 | 290 | 362 | 362 |



There were 160 boys and girls brought into court on 175 charges. The figures show that the number of larceny charges (88) more than doubles that of any other charge brought into court. The sex offenses have decreased each year, there being only one referred to the court and eleven handled outside of court. There was an increase in the number of cases dealing with whiskey and the ten cases were brought into court for adjustment. These charges may be classified as follows:

| | <u>Number</u> | | | <u>Percentage of Whole</u> | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| | <u>1927-28</u> | <u>1928-29</u> | <u>1929-30</u> | <u>1930-31</u> | <u>1930-31</u> |
| Larceny | 138 | 92 | 58 | 88 | 50.29 |
| Truancy | 55 | 48 | 28 | 17 | 9.72 |
| Dependents | 8 | 59 | 54 | 30 | 17.15 |
| Sex Offenses | 12 | 15 | 3 | 1 | .58 |
| Carrying Weapons | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Runaways | 7 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 2.29 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 13 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Whiskey in Poss. | 6 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 5.71 |
| Fighting & Assaults | 18 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 2.81 |
| Fire Arms | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Breaking & Enter. | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1.15 |
| Trespassing | 0 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Incorrigible | 4 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 5.14 |
| Gambling | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2.29 |
| Slander | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Driving under 16 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Forging & Uttering | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Check | | | | | |
| Paper Violation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1.72 |
| Damaging Property | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1.15 |
| Total | 278 | 257 | 170 | 175 | 100.00 |

Disposition of Cases

There has been some change in the disposition of the cases for the past year. Due to the very bad economic condition there were more dependents (114) than the court had known in



previous years. Most of these cases were small children that were handled temporarily and later placed in permanent homes. The Blanche Carr Sterne Baby Boarding Home sponsored by the Junior League dissolved during the past year, therefore, the number of child placements is less than last year. More children, however, were placed because there were fewer repetitions in placing them.

The number of children sent to institutions exceeds that of last year by eight. That includes only reform schools and not boarding schools. The results from placing children in a boarding school as a means of protection and sometimes correction have been very good indeed during the past year. The following will show the disposition of official cases handled:

Probation

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| White Boys | 65 | Colored Boys | 18 |
| Colored Girls | <u>5</u> | Colored Girls | <u>9</u> |
| Total | 70 | Total | 27 |

Private Home Placement

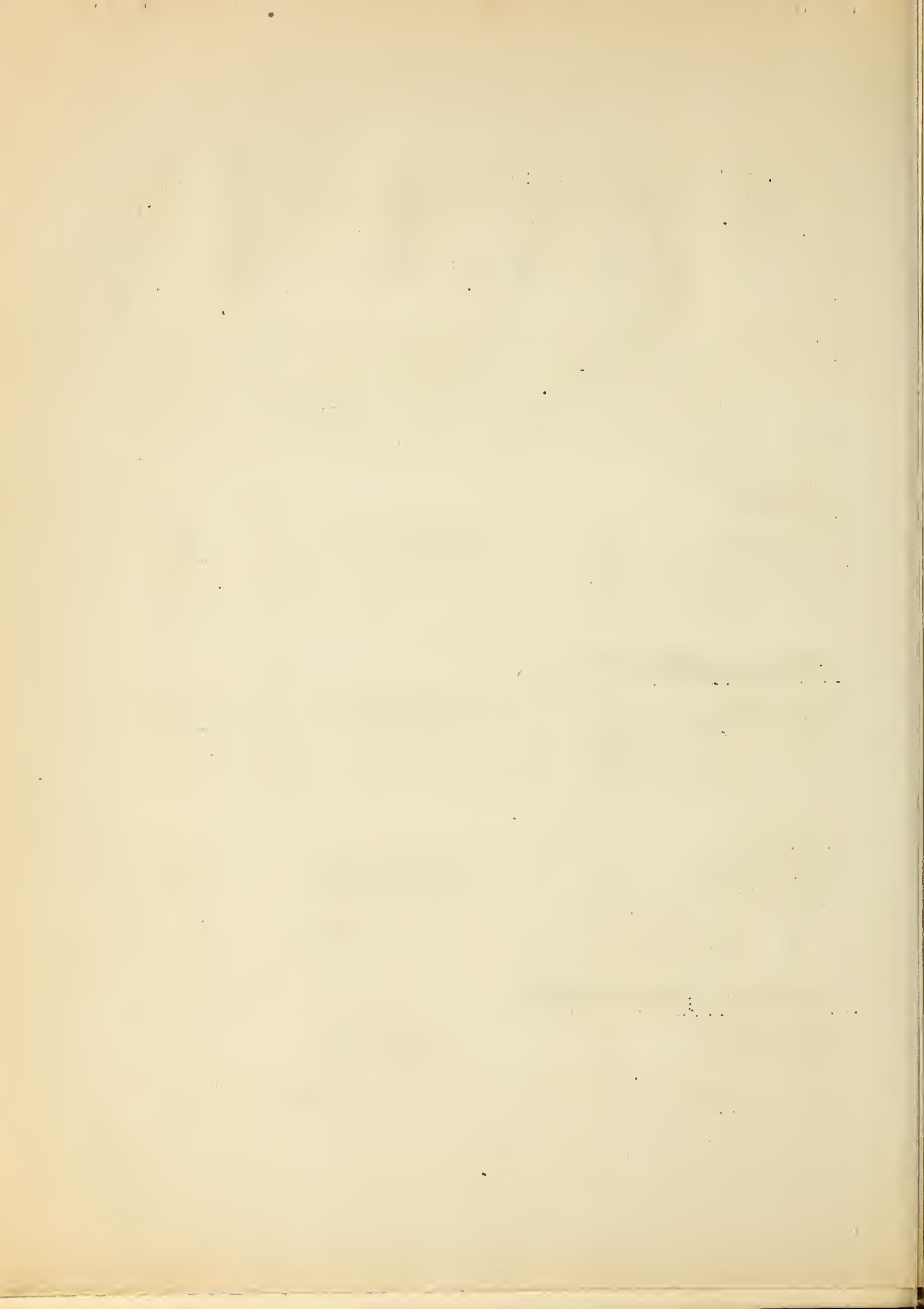
| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| White Boys | 6 | Colored Boys | 14 |
| White Girls | <u>14</u> | Colored Girls | <u>4</u> |
| Total | 20 | Total | 18 |

Dismissed

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| White Boys | 4 | Colored Boys | 2 |
| White Girls | <u>0</u> | Colored Girls | <u>0</u> |
| Total | 4 | Total | 2 |

Committed to Institutions

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| White Boys | 5 | Colored Boys | 3 |
| White Girls | <u>1</u> | Colored Girls | <u>1</u> |
| Total | 6 | Total | 4 |



Warned by Court

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| White Boys | 9 | Colored Boys | 5 |
| White Girls | <u>2</u> | Colored Girls | <u>0</u> |
| Total | 11 | Total | 5 |

Judgment withheld

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| White Boys | 0 | Colored Boys | 7 |
| White Girls | <u>0</u> | Colored Girls | <u>0</u> |
| Total | 0 | Total | 7 |

Bond Forfeited

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Colored Boy | 1 |
|-------------|---|

Boys and Girls Confined in Detention Room Pending Hearing - 70.

Probation Work

The probation idea has spread throughout the world and a recent report shows that 80% of the cases tried on probation have succeeded. Probation is not leniency and letting the offender off without punishment. It is individual treatment purposing to correct the mistake made and to prevent further trouble.

Probation does not work miracles overnight. Since character changes are slow it may take years to realize the value. That, however, should not be considered any great waste of effort for approximately 50% of the persons in prisons are repeaters. According to figures published by the New York State Division of Probation there is no waste of money in trying out probation. The report shows that the annual cost of maintaining a person in the state prison is \$440.52 while the annual average cost of supervising a probationer is \$29.20.

Effective probation work depends upon both the probationer and the person supervising him or her. Regular and frequent contact with the child should bring out the good and bad traits. In helping him to get adjusted it is necessary to make a careful study of the child's environment, his family, relationship, health, education and recreation.

No. on Probation August 1, 1930

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
| White Boys | 29 | Colored Boys | 38 |
| White Girls | <u>8</u> | Colored Girls | <u>12</u> |
| Total | 37 | Total | 50 |

No. Added since August 1, 1930

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| White Boys | 60 | Colored Boys | 17 |
| White Girls | <u>6</u> | Colored Girls | <u>7</u> |
| Total | 66 | Total | 24 |

No. Excused

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| White Boys | 5 | Colored Boys | 11 |
| White Girls | <u>0</u> | Colored Girls | <u>2</u> |
| Total | 5 | Total | 13 |

No. on Probation - August 1, 1931

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| White Boys | 84 | Colored Boys | 44 |
| White Girls | <u>14</u> | Colored Girls | <u>17</u> |
| Total | 98 | Total | 61 |

Probation Visits

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| White Boys | 229 | Colored Boys | 623 |
| White Girls | <u>75</u> | Colored Girls | <u>147</u> |
| Total | 304 | Total | 770 |

Probation Office Calls

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| White Boys | 999 | Colored Boys | 770 |
| White Girls | <u>77</u> | Colored Girls | <u>237</u> |
| Total | 1076 | Total | 1007 |

Unofficial Cases

The Juvenile Court workers have handled during this fiscal year 362 cases out of court. These unofficial cases were divided between the races and sexes as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| White Boys | 181 | Colored Boys | 59 |
| White Girls | <u>66</u> | Colored Girls | <u>56</u> |
| Total | 247 | Total | 115 |

A total of 362 charges were made against 351 boys and girls whose cases were handled unofficially without being brought into court. These charges may be classified as follows:

| <u>Charges</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Larceny | 49 | 13.53 |
| Truancy | 46 | 12.71 |
| Dependents | 84 | 23.21 |
| Runaways | 19 | 5.25 |
| Trespassing | 25 | 6.91 |
| Minor Delinquencies | 83 | 22.93 |
| Paper Violation | 27 | 7.46 |
| Sex Problems | 11 | 3.04 |
| Damaging Property | <u>18</u> | <u>4.97</u> |
| Total | 362 | 100.00% |

Disposition of Unofficial Cases

Reprimanded and Warned

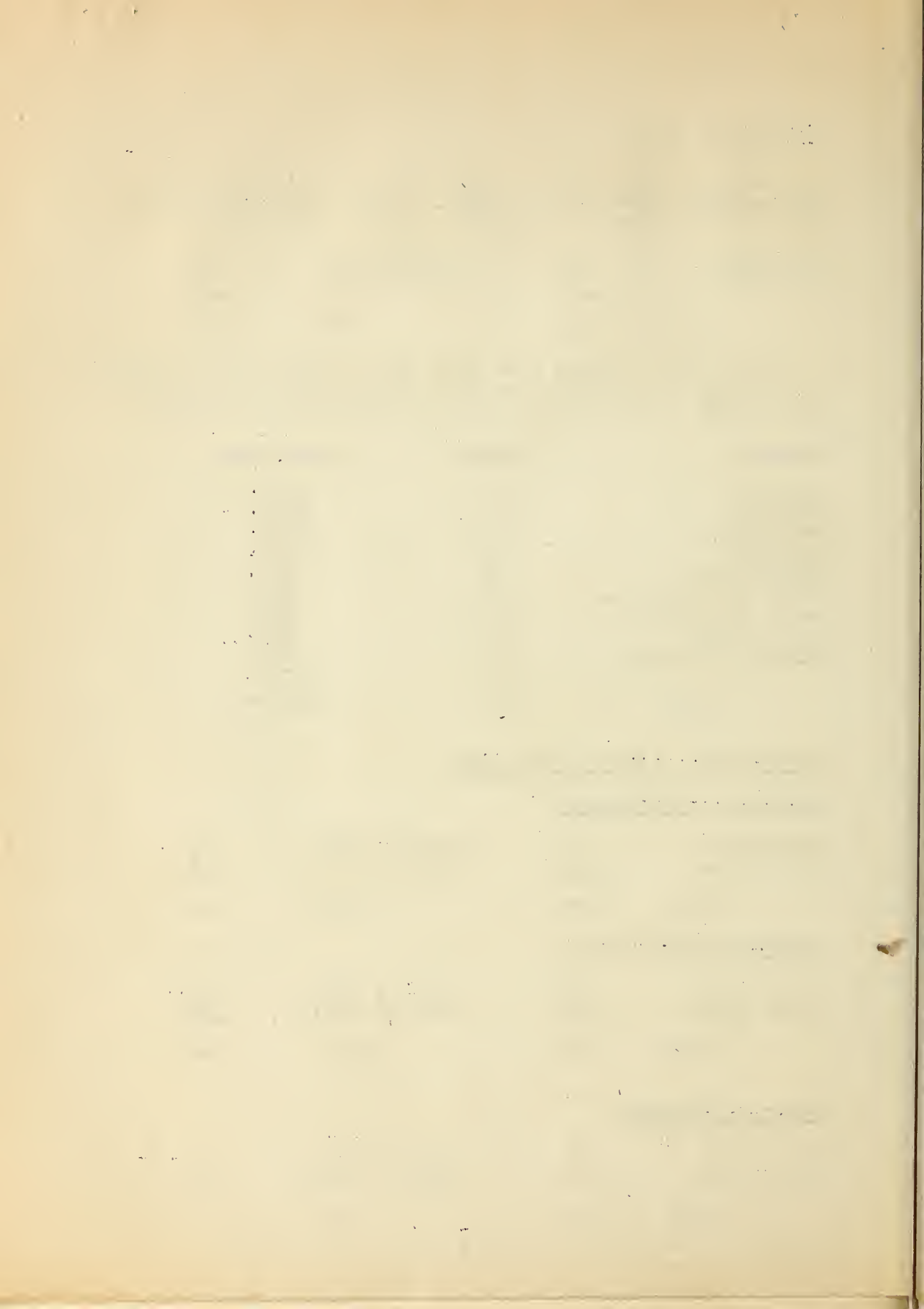
| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| White Boys | 77 | Colored Boys | 15 |
| White Girls | <u>25</u> | Colored Girls | <u>5</u> |
| Total | 102 | Total | 20 |

Temporary Supervision

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| White Boys | 85 | Colored Boys | 44 |
| White Girls | <u>21</u> | Colored Girls | <u>50</u> |
| Total | 106 | Total | 94 |

Returned Runaways

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| White Boys | 9 | Colored Boys | 0 |
| White Girls | <u>5</u> | Colored Girls | <u>0</u> |
| Total | 14 | Total | 0 |



Placed in Private Home

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| White Boys | 8 | Colored Boys | 0 |
| White Girls | <u>14</u> | Colored Girls | <u>1</u> |
| Total | 22 | Total | 1 |

Placed in Institutions

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| White Boys | 2 |
| White Girls | <u>0</u> |
| Total | 2 |

Otherwise

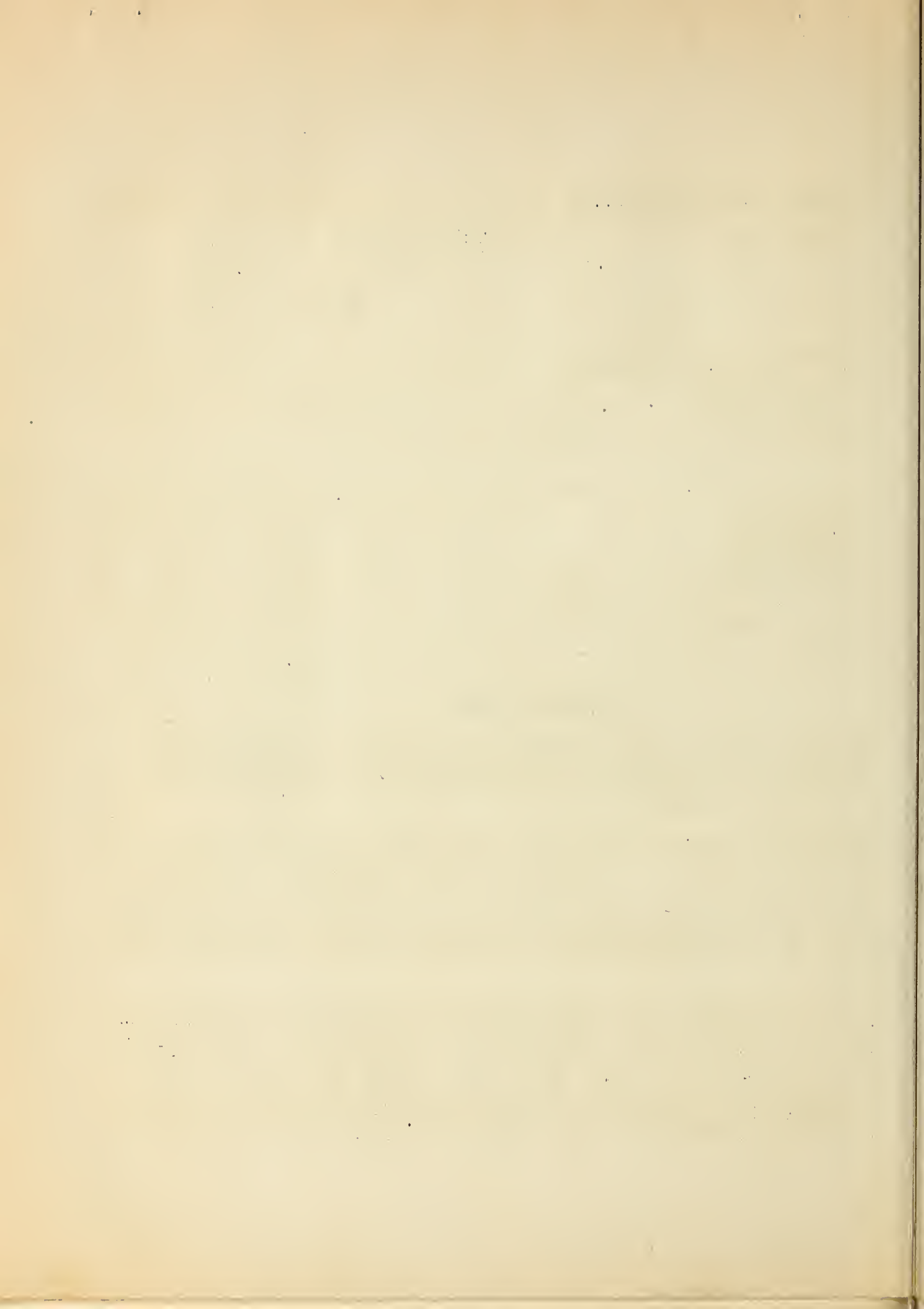
| | |
|-------------|----------|
| White Boys | 0 |
| White Girls | <u>1</u> |
| Total | |

PREVENTIVE WORK

In the field of bodily illness and disease the emphasis has changed from sickness to health - from the disease to the cause and eradication of it. Treatment of disease has given way to prevention.

The ideal Juvenile Court today will make the same approach to the social disease of delinquency among children. For the court to fail to be interested in the causes that bring children in its custody, is to defeat its own purpose and with this fact in mind the Greensboro Juvenile Court has emphasised during the past year preventive work with children throughout the city.

With the crowded prison condition and the enormous expense attached to maintaining criminals and prisoners it seems that one of the greatest social problems of the day is the prevention and treatment of crime. With more efforts to prevent crime naturally the need for treatment would decrease but it seems difficult to put this idea into effect. In a late copy of the magazine "Probation" a small picture illustrated the fact that



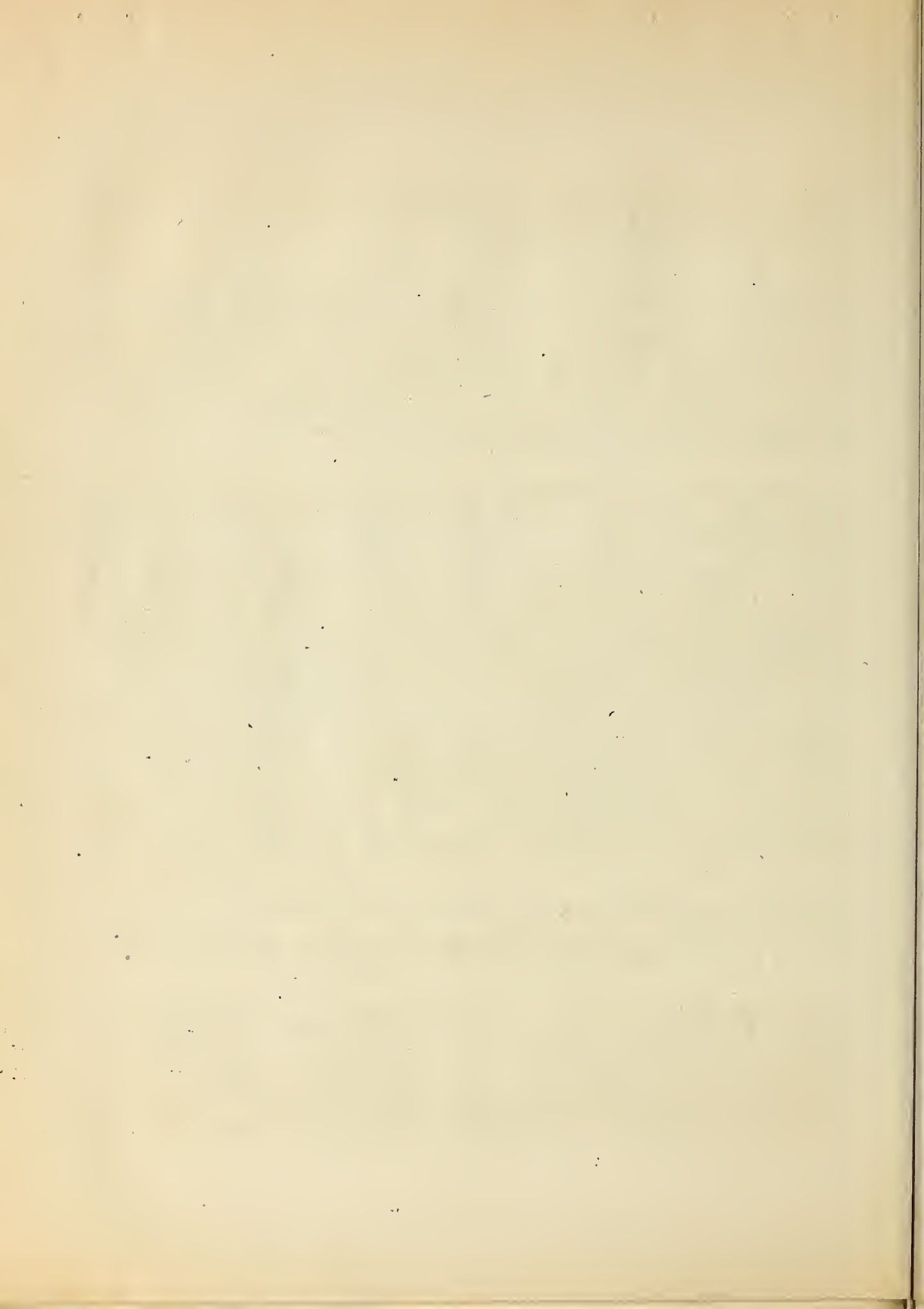
that New York City spends nine times as much money to protect her investments in buildings, from fire alone, as it spends to protect her investment in boys.

There are many forces which contribute to the delinquency of children and the character building and protective agencies must keep on the alert. At least 90% of our delinquents are formed and influenced by their environment. The Juvenile Court is nothing less than a laboratory, making a very careful study of delinquency, its causes and treatment. In most cases where there is a delinquent boy there is a delinquent setting and in order to change the habits and character of the boy it may be necessary to change the environment.

Realizing that the environment, particularly the neighborhood has a great effect on the child's behavior, our court by means of a map, made a study of the neighborhood or group delinquency in our city. By using colored map tacks the residences of the boys and girls brought into court were located on the map. The maps revealed the fact that there were neighborhoods from which a large number of our delinquents came. In most of the neighborhoods the standard of living was low, home conditions were very poor indeed and very little if any club or church work was being done. Realizing that this was an opening for the character building agencies of our city, representatives from these agencies were invited to see the maps. The Y. M. C. A. rallied to the opportunity immediately and through the fine cooperation of Mr. Coons and Mr. Caspary Y. M. C. A. boys clubs have been organized in these communities represented on the map by a great many tacks. These clubs have done a very effective piece of work, and even though they have been organized only a short while much improvement has been shown in the attitude and conduct of the boys who attend the meetings.

The maps have been used in talks made to the civic clubs and they have proved very interesting to some of our business men who did not realize the delinquent situations that were existing in some of the neighborhoods in our city.

It is the idle child who is seeking some new interest that is caught trespassing, stealing, and running away. The child's recreation during the three months vacation is as important in his character building as are the nine months during which time he is in school. During the past two years Greensboro has endeavored to furnish the right kind of recreation by organizing playgrounds in the various sections of the city and placing a



supervisor in charge of the playground. The city appropriated a sum of money to maintain these playgrounds and they were organized by Mr. Guy B. Phillips, Superintendent of the City Schools. To provide an inviting and wholesome place for the children for recreation is a benefit to the community and it is the sincere wishes of the Juvenile Commission that every citizen will cooperate to make these playgrounds permanent.

The KnotHole Gang was again sponsored by the group of representatives from the Y. M. C. A., Juvenile Court, City Schools, Civic Clubs and Boy Scout organization. Realizing the value of having the boys enjoy wholesome recreation, every boy between the age of six and sixteen was urged to join and attend the games regularly. Colored boys were also given the privilege of joining. The boys seemed to appreciate this opportunity and approximately 3,000 have enrolled. Activities such as this can and will do much to encourage wholesome recreation for the children and at the same time lower the rate of juvenile delinquency.

The school attendance work done by the workers is a great preventive measure. One of the first indications of delinquency is truancy, and of course idleness and hiding around during school hours leads to worse trouble. To give special care and supervision to children who dislike school in many instances prevents more serious trouble.

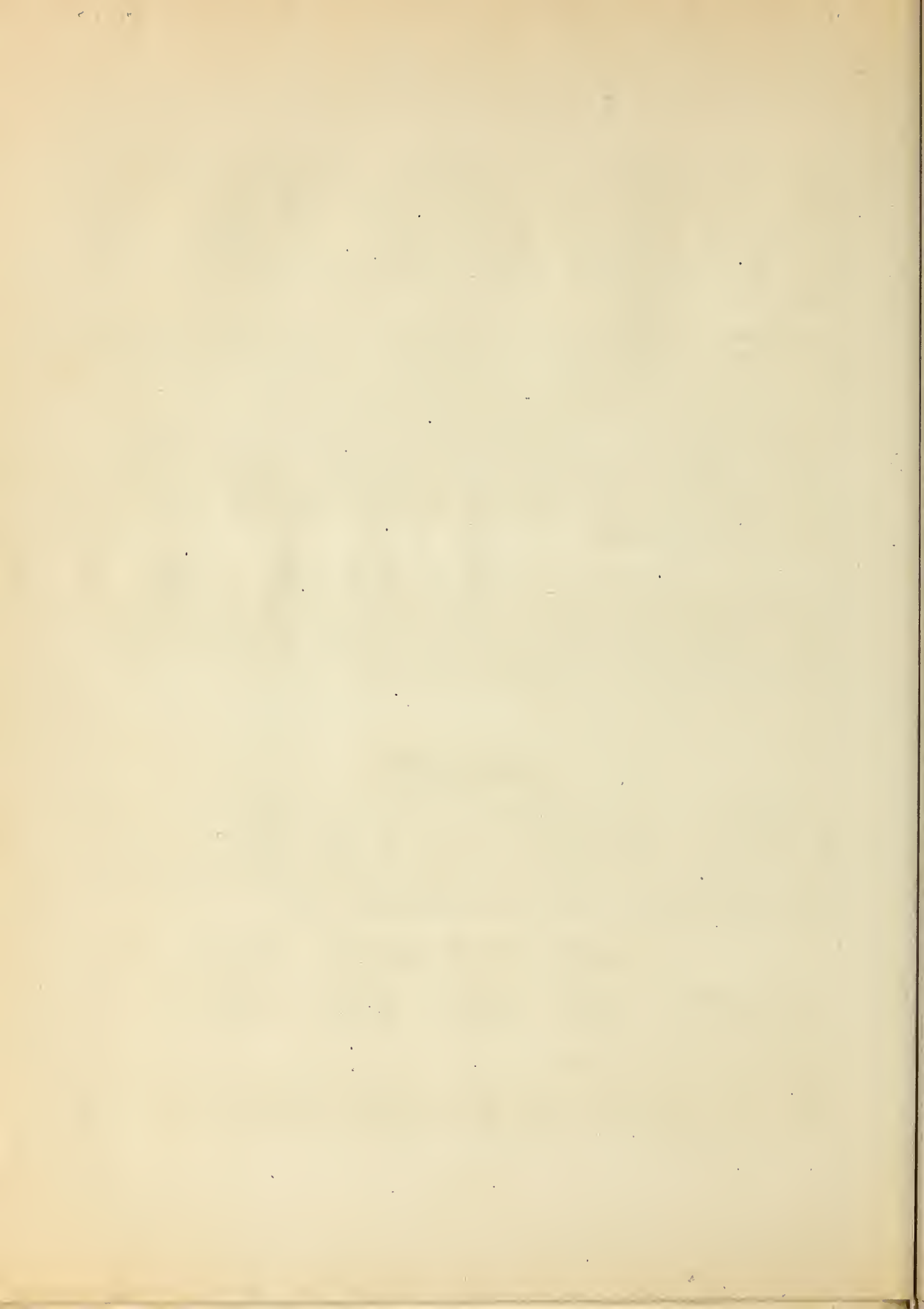
SCHOOL REPORT

A comparison of the school report for 1930-31 with that of the past three years indicates that for the first three years there was an increase in the number of cases reported. During the past year there was a total of 2875 cases reported for investigation. There were fewer white cases reported and more colored cases than in the preceding years.

| | <u>1927-28</u> | <u>1928-29</u> | <u>1929-30</u> | <u>1930-31</u> |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| White children | 1,039 | 1,303 | 1,801 | 1,526 |
| Colored " | 1,064 | 1,591 | 1,046 | 1,349 |

Analysis of White Cases

During the school year 1930-31 there were 1526 cases of absence and suspected truancy reported for investigation. Many of these absences were found to be due to illness and lack of



food and clothing although excuses for being absent ranged from "just didn't want to go," to the lack of the necessities of life. The time for adjusting some of the cases ranges from only a few minutes in which to take the child to school, to months during which time every effort is made to help the child become interested in school and to help the parents realize the advantage of regular attendance. (Exhibit A and B) Of the 1526 cases reported some immediate adjustment was made in 1295, and the children were returned to school.

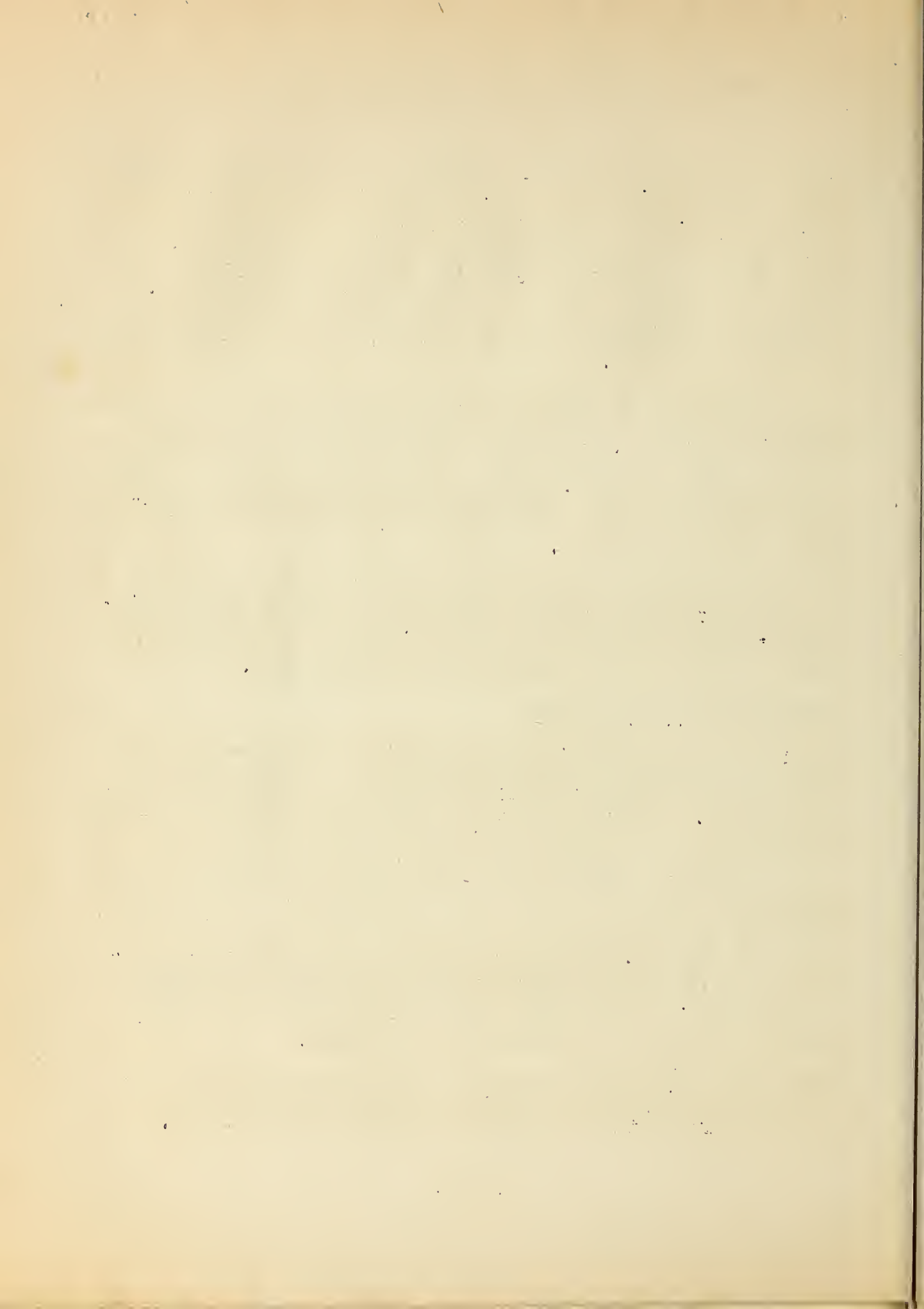
In addition to the regular visits that are made to the home of chronic truants 1371 visits were made in the interest of school attendance. Of the 71 cases of aggravated truancy it was necessary to bring 17 into court before satisfactory results were obtained. Those children brought into court were reprimanded and warned and placed under the supervision of the Juvenile Court workers or required to report to the Judge regularly.

The attendance workers received splendid cooperation from the Parent-Teacher Council and from the individual associations, especially from the Clara J. Peck Association. The many children who did not have clothing and lunches were taken care of by the Parent-Teacher Association.

Analysis of Colored Cases

During the past school year the colored schools have taken more interest in reporting the absences and approximately 200 more cases were investigated this year than in the previous year. Because of the fact that the school was making a closer check on the absences fewer children were found loafing on the street during school hours. There were not as many cases of aggravated truancy but the cases were of a very difficult nature because so often there was a family problem involved. In the cases where there was a lack of clothing the problem was not so easily handled as with the white children because there was no Parent-Teacher Association and the welfare agencies were very much over-worked at the time. In many cases the parents worked away from home and the children were left by their parents to go to school or to remain at home as they wished.

There were 1,445 visits made to the homes of children reported as absent from school but in many cases the children were found in stores or in the streets and alleys.



Many gangs and hanging-out places in certain alleys were broken up by the attendance worker who made unexpected visits to these districts. Although more cases of absence were brought to the attention of the school attendance department fewer were of a chronic nature and fewer referred to the Juvenile Court for adjustment. A continued interest on the part of the attendance officer, or visiting teacher, as he or she may be called, is very helpful in most cases with colored children who have been truants from school. Many of the cases require as much time and attention as the most serious Juvenile Court cases. It may be only a matter of a personal interest in the little negro boy and his problem that stands between him and regular attendance at school. (See exhibit C)

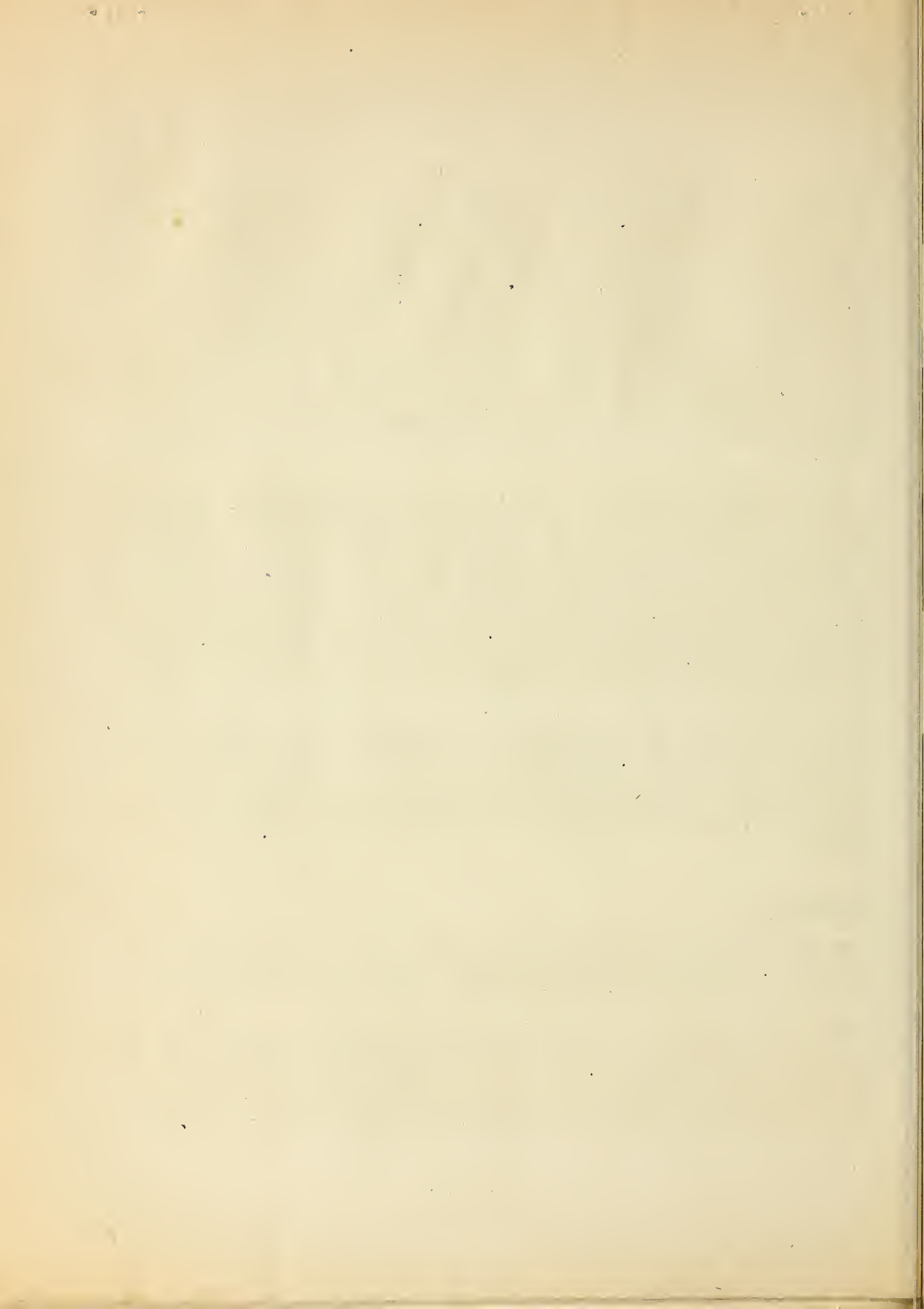
The transient population due to economic depression has seriously affected the school attendance record within the last year. In order to be able to better follow up the families moving into and out of our school district the transportation companies have been requested to send in monthly a list of the families which have moved. While doing Juvenile Court work, in addition to school attendance work, many children are found who are not attending school. During the past year approximately 60 children were located in this way and placed in school for the first time during the year.

The granting of free book rent to children whose parents were not able to pay became almost an uncontrollable problem during the past year. Approximately 1,700 cards were issued. One third of these were free and the other two thirds made agreement for paying on the installment plan. Many abused this privilege and failed to make the payments as they promised.

Exhibit A

"I am sure you are mistaken about Ted being out of school today, 'cause I got seven younguns and none of them ever lay out a day without my knowing it."

This was a part of the conversation which grew out of a visit to Ted Wiley's home to see why he had failed to appear at school that morning. Ted was an attractive but mischievous little fellow who was very easily influenced by his friends and playmates. The first two years of his school life had been very satisfactory both to him and to the school. The



attendance worker knew Ted only through conversation with his playmates, but after even a few minutes with the mother the interest in Ted had grown considerably and worker was very anxious to meet him. Unfortunately he lived in the neighborhood with some boys who were older and much less obedient than he. When the attendance worker told the mother that two of the neighborhood boys also were out she proceeded to tell all of the undesirable traits about the boys and said that if Ted was out she was sure they were to blame. Mrs. Wiley asked worker to let her know if and where Ted was found, but she was of the opinion that he was in the school where he belonged.

About four blocks from Ted's home was a nice big vacant lot and the temptation to fly the kites was too great for the boys. When worker found them about an hour after school opening time, their little endurance test was getting interesting. The boys agreed that there was ample time after school for flying kites and all three went to school with worker.

That was Ted's first and last experience with playing hookey. Both he and his mother had learned a new lesson that day - the mother that her child should be corrected and supervised more closely - and Ted that after school hours was the time to fly kites.

Exhibit B

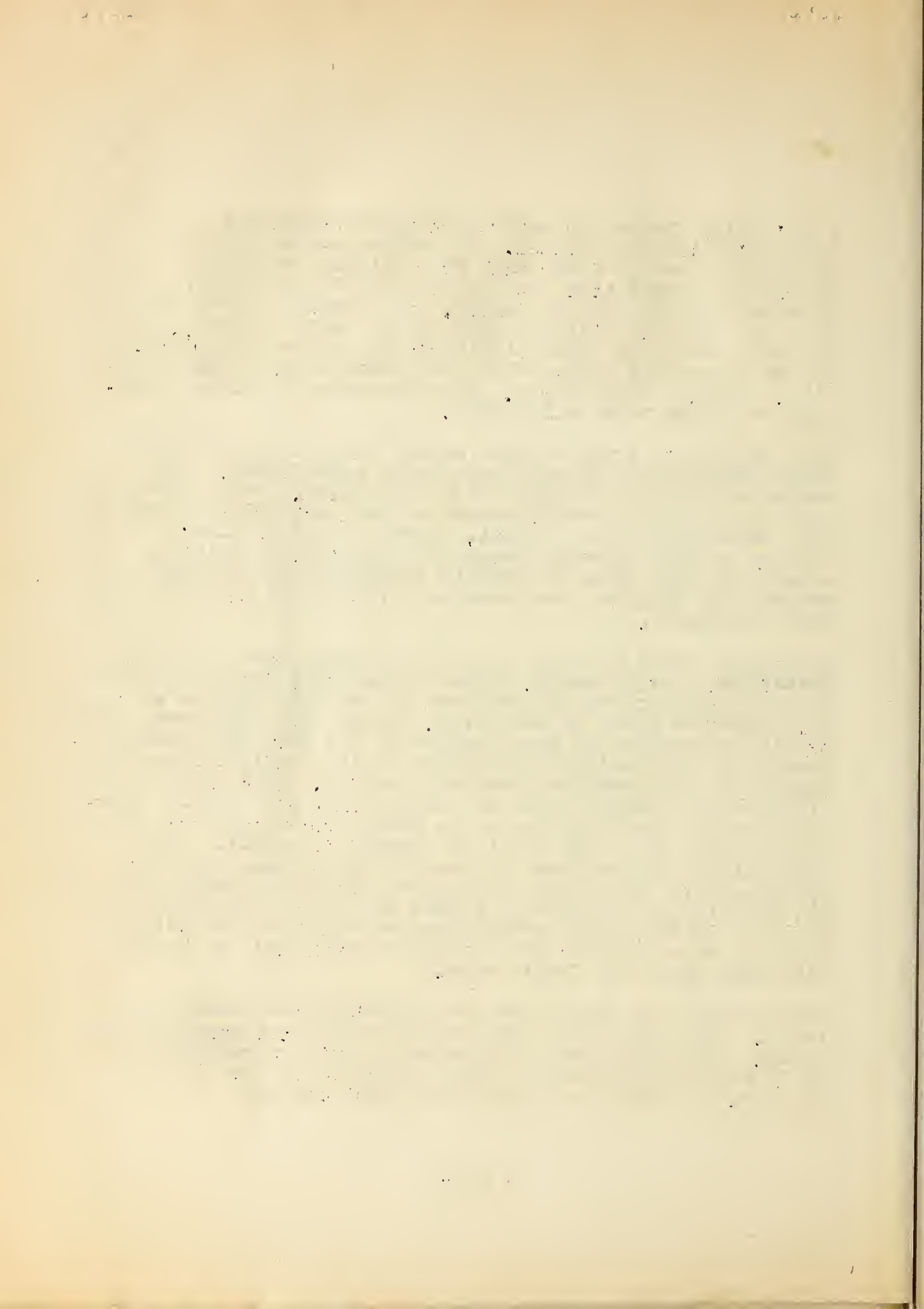
Since the first day that Clem Hill had entered school he had not been back. After four or five visits to the home of Clem and not having found any one at home the attendance worker wondered more than ever about the people who lived in the dirty, delapidated looking little house. The neighbors could give very little information about the family but they said that the mother and older sister worked in the factory all day, the older brother was sick most of the time and the little boy about eleven years old played around the house and yard most of the time. Worker found out from the neighbors' statements that Clem was not given much care and attention by his family which was at that time in very bad condition economically and morally. After time for Mrs. Hill to reach home from her work worker went back to the home. Clem was sitting on the back door step whittling a small stick. He did not seem to be at all concerned when worker was talking with him and his mother.

Clem's only excuse for not returning to school was that he didn't like that school. The mother stated that her husband had deserted her with four children about two years before this time and that she had found it very hard to make a living for the family. She further stated that Clem did not have clothing suitable to wear to school, and for that reason she had allowed him to lay out of school. It was only a day before Clem was fitted up in a pair overalls, shirt, and new shoes. He seemed very proud and promised to return to school Monday.

Clem apparently tried to like school and wanted to improve his attendance but showed very little improvement. For months he averaged staying out a day a week. When worker went to get him he always seemed to feel ashamed and would very reluctantly go to school. Worker spoke to Clem's teacher and the principal about his difficulty in liking school and they tried to get him interested but nothing removed his trouble - not even new clothes and the nice warm lunch at school.

The family still lived in the dirty little house in a very undesirable neighborhood. Clem was the only boy of his size on the street and he did not know any of the children in the neighborhood to which he was going. Since there had been very little improvement in the home due to the very bad economic condition, the family was referred to the Family Service Agency and they received temporary relief. In spite of all efforts Clem insisted that he did not like the school. Worker found out that Clem wanted to attend another school to which he had gone when he first started to school. When everything was considered it seemed best to help the family to move in the school district to which Clem wanted to go, in spite of the fact it seemed to be "just humoring the child." It took considerable time to convince the mother that any move to save the child was worthwhile but eventually they moved for Clem's sake.

For the past two years Clem has attended school most regularly. With only three exceptions, he has not snapped school a day. Since Clem has grown up to be quite a regular boy it is only natural that he should want to see the circus one day, the fair one day and just rest one day.



Clem's interest in school has grown with his regular attendance and during the past school year he was called the handy man around the school. Although it has been spread over a period of three years worker has noticed some improvement during each visit.

At the present time Clem is working part time and with his money he is buying his clothes for school next year.

Exhibit C

James Mathews was reported to the attendance office for playing truant from school. The principal said that James had been to school but left before the noon recess without permission.

The attendance worker visited James' home but found that he had not been there since early morning. The mother said that James would not attend school except on days that his brother would take him and then for only part of the day.

The mother, who had a police record, allowed James to come and go as he liked. It was eleven and twelve o'clock at night before James came home from the cafes where he had been listening to the tales told by grown men. He spent most of his time running errands for the adults in the pool rooms and cafes on Ashe Street. His training at home was worse than nothing.

James complained that he did not have any clothes to wear. New clothes were given to him and his mother was required to keep them clean. James still did not attend school. The attendance worker took James to school every day for a month before he would go by himself. By that time the principal, who at first thought the case hopeless, began to take a new interest in James. James was given things to do in the classroom outside of his studies. He was made to feel he was wanted by the boys on the playground during recess time.

Gradually James began to make friends with the other students and became interested in school. The last of the school year found James with a perfect record for the last two months of the school year.

